

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 7, and 8 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 5 and 6 have been cancelled. New claims 7 and 8 have been added. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. The recitation of new claims 7 and 8 is supported, for example, at page 10, lines 5-13 and at Fig. 2 of the present application.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was indicated as being allowed.

Claims 2, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§112 and 103. These rejections are moot, since claims 2, 5 and 6 have been cancelled.

Regarding new claims 7 and 8, these claims are believed to be allowable, at least because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest an electron microscope having a turntable stage and a plurality of minicolumns, wherein imaging of every point on a wafer by the minicolumns is enabled by the turntable rotating the wafer, as recited in independent claim 7.

Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number shown below.

10/823,968

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Messina".

Michael A. Messina

Registration No. 33,424

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
202.756.8000 MAM:llg  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
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